

Town of Hudson
Benson Park Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 19, 2010

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

A meeting of the Benson Committee was called to order by Chair H. Schibanoff at 7:04 pm. August 19, 2010 in the Community Development Meeting Room at Town Hall. C. Gagnon led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Attendance:

J. Barnes, R. Empey, C. Gagnon, Selectman Liaison S. Jasper, Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh, Alternates A. Desrosiers, John Leone
Excused: P. Nichols, M. Lee, K. Dickinson

3. Public Input

None

4. Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes of August 5, 2010 Benson Park Committee.

C. Gagnon made a motion to accept minutes

J. Barnes seconded the motion

All in favor...Motion Carries

5. Old Business

A. Accounting for Benson Park Funds

Chair H. Schibanoff stated that this was tabled from last meeting to give the Committee time to review it. He asked if anyone had questions. A. Desrosiers said that the cost for the porta-potties was listed under the Committee's \$5,000 and she felt that this should also be added to the regular budget along with electricity and security. She was under the impression that the \$5,000 was for expenditures that the Committee needed to improve the park.

Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said that he did not have an answer to that question at this time. He said that we has budgeted for one (1) porta-potty and then changed it to add another one and that would come out of our \$5,000. He noticed a change in the cost and will look into this. He did not think this was accounted for correctly. J. Barnes said that he noticed a that septic service bills started last August and wanted to know what these were for. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said that porta-potties were used for the Open House and at some clean-up days and when the roofers were working at the Park. J. Barnes also asked questions about Fairpoint Communication bills and Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said that was for the telephone lines for the security system. There is also another electric bill but that is for the Haselton Barn security system. Chair H. Schibanoff said that right now we are in a deficit position with bills due. Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh asked if anything would be needed

for the Grand Opening Celebration. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said that the two porta-potties would be adequate for the Celebration. The Scouts will donate water and drinks for the attendees. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said he walked the park with the Music Director of the Alvirne Marching Band to plan what they would be doing on the Grand Opening day. An area should be kept clear for the Band to stand and perform.

6. Interview and Presentations

A. Ben Bates Eagle Scout Candidate

B. Bates said that he had been before this Committee in April with his plan to restore the old remote control car area. He plans to fund raise for the cost of restoring this area and would like to start clearing the area on September 18 and 19. He talked about removing roots on the track and there is at least one tree on the island in the middle of the track that will need to be cut down. He will remove the siding that goes around the track and replace it with something else. The middle area will be cleared and crushed granite will be placed in this area. He also plans to add fencing and repair and replace broken benches. B. Bates plan is to have all this completed by the end of October.

C. Gagnon made a motion to accept B. Bates plan

J. Barnes seconded the motion.

All in favor...Motion Carries

B. Playground and Sign

Jeremy Griffus, Chair of the Recreation Department wanted to give an update to what is happening with the Playground and the Sign for the Handicap area. J. Griffus confirmed the Benson Park Committee that the Recreation Committee does not meet during the Summer Months so that no additional information on the Playground is available. The only information is that one (1) playground plan has been developed by O'Brian and Sons. The Engineer from this company came to the Park and looked at many sites before presenting his plan to the Recreation Department. This playground will be a balanced playground. J. Griffus had a single copy of what was developed by O'Brian and Sons and passed it around for the Committee to view as he spoke of what they were looking at. This was the only plan at this time but when the Recreation Committee resumes their meetings the hope is to have a few more plans developed by others. He explained that the plan as shown at this time would allow wheel chairs to go on all equipment and shows a rise of six (6) feet which he thought was very impressive. A price was given for this plan (\$87,644) and J. Griffus mentioned a Grant or Impact Fees from the Recreation Department. Many questions followed. J. Griffus' final statement on this was that any recommendations that the Recreation Department brought before the Benson Committee regarding the Balanced Playground would be the recommendation of the Company they hire to build this.

J. Griffus spoke of a plan he has to refurbish another old sign to be placed at the Handicap Entrance. He had a picture of one of the signs and how he would change it to be attractive and informative. This sign will also have the Handicap symbol. J. Griffus gave his estimated cost for the sign at \$400. Discussion

followed on how to add an arrow pointing the way to the Main Entrance and this part of the sign was tabled for a future meeting.

Selectman Liaison S. Jasper made a motion to approve the expenditure of \$400 to J. Griffus to rehab another sign

C. Gagnon seconded the motion

All in favor...Motion Carries

J. Griffus asked for guidance in the wording...is it Handicapped or Handicap. Discussion followed with other versions but it was decided to go with Handicap.

8. New Business .

A. Request for 5k Race

Christine Mathieu works for Girls Inc. of New Hampshire and is also the Road Race Director in Rochester, NH. She stated that she is also a runner and had an idea (with permission) to host a Trail Race at Benson Park. This race would benefit Girls Inc. of New Hampshire (a not for profit organization) and would be a two loop run on the 2 ½ Mile Hazelton Barn Trail. She would like to have this event next spring or early summer of 2011. D. Empey had a few concerns about the number of runners that C. Mathieu planned on having run the race and the damage to Trails. C. Mathieu said it was only in the thought process now but she could limit the amount of runners to 50 or 60. D. Empey asked Selectman Liaison S. Jasper if there was an issue with raising funds for another organization other than the park and Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said he did not think this would be a problem if no money was collected on site. He also felt that the Deed should be looked at and said that the Deed was on line for anyone to view. J. Barnes asked about the viewing public for this race and volunteers. C. Mathieu said that there would not be many viewers for this and put the volunteer number at ten (10). Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh voiced her concern as to no water in the park and bathroom facilities for runners and viewers. She also asked how they raised money for the race. C Mathieu said that they get sponsorships for the road race at different levels (Sponsors get advertising on Tee Shirts, etc.) and registration fees. C. Mathieu said that there would be a free buffet after the race for participants. Questions and comments followed. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper asked that C. Mathieu return to one of the Committee Meetings with a detailed plan that could be studied and then if possible go on to the BOS for approval. Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh stated her disapproval for this event at this time. C. Mathieu said she would like to bring some of her girls to the park to volunteer for one of the clean-ups so that they would have a greater appreciation of the park.

B. Committee Reports

Communications Subcommittee

P. Nichols said that the communication's subcommittee held a meeting and finalized the plans for the Grand Opening Celebration of Benson Park on September 25, 2010 with a rain date of September 26, 2010. She stated that this was the BOS party and she thought that these guidelines for the Celebration would help in planning this. A list of invited guests was included in the Presentation along with things needed, who should speak, etc. Vice

Chair S. Rumbaugh asked about parking and it was discussed that the same parking areas that were available last October be used. Other questions were presented. Chair H. Schibanoff said this would have to be presented to the BOS and he did not get it on the agenda for the next meeting. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said that he would bring it up under other things but it would not be until the end of the agenda. Chair H. Schibanoff asked that P. Nichols attend this meeting and she agreed. Selectman S. Jasper thought that the invitational list was very long and did not feel that an Invitation should be sent out to that many. P. Nichols said that it was just a list that the BOS could veto or add to. Emails and News Media could be another way to invite everyone. She said that Invitations to the Governor and Representatives, etc. could be mailed. After the meeting Selectman S. Jasper, Chair H. Schibanoff and P. Nichols will go over the list to better understand who will get the written invitations.

Volunteer Subcommittee

C. Gagnon said that there was a clean-up scheduled for Saturday, August 21, 2010 from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm. She said that a list of projects from the Building Subcommittee and some areas needed to be cleared from the Landscape Subcommittee. She gave a list of what volunteers needed to bring with them and that lunch would be served to all volunteers. Target of Nashua on Amherst Street, contacted C. Gagnon and they are interested in bringing a group to the park for a clean-up day in the future.

Building Subcommittee

Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said the J. Leone, Chair of the Building Subcommittee, could not attend this meeting but that wood that has been donated would be delivered to the park for the Saturday clean-up.

Landscape Subcommittee

N. Undercofler had no report at this time but C. Gagnon wanted to let the Committee know that another spot in the park has been adopted for beautification. Many spots have already been adopted and if you walk through the park you will notice these colorful areas.

Video/Photography Subcommittee

A. Desrosiers said that the Committee is still working on the upcoming work 'Tour of Bensons' inserting photos of how Benson Park looked in the past.

Budget Subcommittee

Chair H. Schibanoff said that this committee consisting of Selectman S. Jasper, J. Barnes and himself will meet at a later date.

Paths/Trails Subcommittee

D. Empey said that quite a bit has happened following the last Committee Meeting. He has presented the plans regarding the five (5) bridges to the Conservation Commission. They have all been approved by the Conservation Commission. The next step is appearing before the Planning Board for final approval. Two (2) of the bridges need to have a short form sent to the DES because they will be in the mitigation area. Everything is going well and he is happy to report that the Conservation Commission is helping with materials for the bridges. Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh said that they are doing more than

that...they are paying for it. D. Empey said that he possibly understated his remarks. He has also been working with the Honors Biology Students from AHS to complete volunteer hours. He has them working on the Lion Safari area as group. D. Empey expects a few others on Saturday to work on their hours. These hours have to be completed before the start of the new school year.

Chair H. Schibanoff mentioned that he received an email from the BOS Chairman saying that the description on our web site is incorrect. It shows the old Committee plus a few other things and would like to see an update on this. D. Empey wants a revision to the last lines on this to include the newer Trails/Paths other than the Historical District. The park is much larger than this area.

Nonmonetary Donations

Chair H. Schibanoff has been approached along with C. Gagnon on how to accept a nonmonetary donation to the Park, (C. Gagnon with plants and Chair H. Schibanoff with a painting). There does not seem to be any procedure on this. Vice Chair seemed to think there was a procedure from the BOS that under a certain amount it did not have to be reported. Selectman Liaison S. Jasper said it was his understanding that no matter what the value it had to be reported to the BOS. He said that someone needed to be the Gate Keeper of donations to ask the right questions. Discussion followed.

Other Business/Remarks by Committee Members

C. Gagnon was in the park and the Hudson Police mentioned that the motion detector in the Office Building is going off more than usual. They wanted her to let the Committee know because they have had to respond many times. They want everyone to know if you trip the alarm please call to let them know.

Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh said that when she has been going into the park she is picking up garbage. She is noticing more of this as time goes on and she would like to ask the public to please be aware and take your trash with you.

Let's keep our park clean for everyone. Also, if you are walking your dog and have a clean up bag, please dispose of it properly and not leave it along the trail.

Selectman Liaison S. Jasper following along Vice Chair S. Rumbaugh's theme, the need for trash containers appears to be a necessity. People are discarding their litter in the Porta-Potties and this is going to create a problem with the Septic Company. There may be problems with animals but he will discuss this with the BOS and the Road Agent, K. Burns. D. Empey said he thought that one container be placed near the Porta-Potties. Selectman Liaison thought another should be placed down near the A-Frame. These areas seem to be the busiest. The consensus of the Committee was to place one container at the Gorilla House. If more are needed in the future they can be added.

P. Nichols said that she had been trying to convince her neighbors to come to the Park and they finally went over intending to stay a short time. They were there for 3 hours, bicycling all over. They have a basket for the dog and that's where the dog stayed. They could not say enough about how wonderful it was and how they are going to tell all their friends.

Chair H. Schibanoff mentioned the email he forwarded to the Committee from J. Undercofler with an update of the four (4) Eagle Scout Projects going on in the Park. One is almost complete. No one had questions.

Next meeting Date: September 2, 2010 at 7:00 pm
Board of Selectmen Meeting Room, Town Hall

7. Adjournment 8:47 pm

K. Dickinson made a motion to adjourn
C. Gagnon Seconded the Motion
All in favor-Motion Carries